

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

Each node of a network of the above kind using optical fibers receives signals that come in particular from other nodes on the same network. The signals are optical signals, i.e. they are conveyed by optical waves, and are referred hereinafter as "input" signals. Likewise, the node sends, in particular to other nodes, other signals of the above kind that are referred to hereinafter as "output" signals. The output signals are equivalent to respective input signals in the sense that they convey the same data, but they may be in a different order and their carrier wavelengths may be different. Correspondences must be established between, on the one hand, the sources from which the input signals come and, on the other hand, the destinations to which the equivalent output signals must be sent.

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, beginning at line 31, with the following amended paragraph:

The above kind of router has, on the one hand, input ports via which it receives packets and, on the other hand, output ports via which it transmits packets equivalent to the input packets. The number of output ports is typically the same as the number of input ports. A "capacity" of the router is defined. It consists of the product of the number of input ports by the data bit rate that can be transmitted by the router via each of those ports. To convey the packets between its input ports and its output ports the router uses carrier waves whose wavelengths constitute operating wavelengths of the router. To select a path, and possibly a path duration, for

each packet between an input port and an output port, it includes switches that usually consist of semiconductor optical amplifiers.

Please replace the paragraph on page 11, beginning at line 26, with the following amended paragraph:

In accordance with the present invention the connections formed by the input system in cooperation with the input ports, on the one hand, divide all of these input ports between a plurality of input groups each consisting of a plurality of these ports and, on the other hand, divide all of the distribution terminals into a plurality of internal groups respectively associated with these input groups and each including at least one such terminal. The wavelengths of the ports of each of these input groups form a succession of different wavelengths specific to a respective succession of these ports. Each distribution terminal of each of these internal groups constitutes a terminal of this group and this group includes a plurality of such terminals, the respective time-delays of these terminals forming a succession of different time-delays. Said division is obtained by virtue of the fact that these connections connect the ports of one input group only to the terminals of the internal group associated with that input group and connect those terminals only to those ports.